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INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO STUDY, MITIGATE AND MINIMIZE THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE DISASTER AT CHERNOBYL

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INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO STUDY, MITIGATE AND MINIMIZE THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE DISASTER AT CHERNOBYL
DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Letter dated 2 July 1991 from the representatives of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Declaration which the participants in the third Meeting of the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the USSR and the Federated Republics adopted, in Minsk, on 28 June 1991, concerning United Nations efforts to mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster.

We should be grateful if you would have the text of this Declaration circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under items 78, 80 and 88 of the preliminary list of items to be included in the provisional agenda of the forty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly, and also

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* A/46/50.

under items 6 and 8 of the provisional agenda of the second regular session of 1991 of the Economic and Social Council.

(Signed)
Yuliy M. VORONTSOV
Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the USSR
Permanent Representative of the USSR to the United Nations
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

(Signed)
Sergey N. MARTYNOV
Acting Permanent Representative of the Byelorussian SSR to the United Nations

(Signed)
Viktor A. KRYZHANOVSKIY
Acting Permanent Representative of the Ukrainian SSR to the United Nations

ANNEX

Statement by participants in the third Meeting of the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the USSR and Union Republics concerning United Nations efforts to mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster

The international community marked the fifth anniversary of the Chernobyl tragedy by radically rethinking the lessons to be drawn from the greatest-ever nuclear disaster. The world is continually seeing new manifestations of the global problems caused by the Chernobyl disaster and is seeking to draw the direct consequences - which remain difficult to foresee - for the millions of inhabitants of those regions of the Byelorussian SSR, Ukrainian SSR and the Russian Federation who have suffered the most from the disaster and from its indirect consequences.

As has been pointed out by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, the Chernobyl nuclear disaster is without precedent in history. It is unique in that its repercussions have known no bounds in either space or time. Although five years have elapsed since the disaster, it remains impossible to fully assess the nature and dimensions of the dire consequences it will have for the health of future generations.

Much progress has been made in the establishment of a system of international cooperation to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the disaster at Chernobyl, the main features of which are set forth in General Assembly resolution 45/190 dated 21 December 1990 and in the decisions taken by other international organizations to develop that cooperation. Under the auspices of the United Nations, a general plan of action for Chernobyl is being drawn up for the United Nations covering all aspects of the problem, and not only the radiological consequences, but also the medical, socio-economic, psychological and other long-term repercussions of the disaster.

However, this is merely a first phase. What is needed now is to translate these plans into concrete action as soon as possible and to ensure that they are systematically taken into account in the practical activities deployed by all competent organizations of the United Nations, Member States, business and scientific circles, and by the international community as a whole. As part of this action it would be worthwhile envisaging measures to organize additional in-depth studies of aspects of the Chernobyl problem which have not been considered in the earlier expert evaluations and appraisals, with the participation of specialists from the Byelorussian SSR, the Ukrainian SSR and the Russian Federation and of international organizations and leading social movements.

Participants in the Meeting of the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the USSR and the Federated Republics urge the international community to respond to the appeal launched by the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the disaster at

Chernobyl, and invites them to extend generous and lasting assistance to the victims of the disaster.

We hope that the next United Nations pledging conference for that purpose will help to lay the material, financial and intellectual bases needed to ensure the implementation of the international programme of cooperation for Chernobyl.

Participants in the Meeting will do everything within their power to ensure that the USSR and the Federated Republics really contribute to resolving the problems arising from the Chernobyl disaster, inter alia by their constructive and coordinated participation in the international cooperation activities undertaken in this area.

Minsk, 28 June 1991